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to make it the text for a prolonged discussion of the myths of "the age of chivalry." We ought to add, that the work not only appears in beautiful typography, and with appropriate illustrations, but that, in addition to such copies as will be sought for a permanent place in the library, there are for holiday use certain ornamented copies with splendidly illuminated and colored engravings.

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25. — *The Daily Counsellor.* By Mrs. L. H. SIGOURNEY. Hartford: Brown and Gross. 1859. 12mo. pp. 402.

WE have here a brief poem, founded on a text of Scripture, for every day in the year. It is a volume designed as a companion and guide for private devotion. Such a book, from one whose mere name is a sufficient guaranty for the singleness of purpose in which it had birth, is above criticism. Yet it need not shrink from a severe critical test. The separate pieces are, with hardly an exception, of a high order of positive merit, both rhythmical and poetical, while, negatively, they are free from that besetting sin of hymn-writers and devotional poets, — the overlaying of sacred and Scriptural thought with their own conceits and prettinesses.

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26. — *A Memoir of the Life and Times of the Rev. Isaac Backus,* A. M. By ALVAH HOVEY, D. D., Professor of Christian Theology in Newton Theological Institution. Boston: Gould and Lincoln. 1858. 12mo. pp. 369.

WE have been doubly disappointed in this book. As a biography, it fails to meet our expectations; as a contribution to the ecclesiastical history of New England, it has an importance which only those who read it can adequately estimate. Mr. Backus was a man of fervent piety, intense zeal, unresting energy, unflinching tenacity of purpose; but of the delicate tracery of character and the more strictly personal experiences which give individuality and attract interest to a memoir, the surviving records are few and unemphatic. But for the greater part of the last century he stood in the van of the conflict for religious freedom waged by the Baptists with the dominant sect in Massachusetts. Few of our readers, perhaps, are aware of the extent to which, before, during, and for twenty years after the Revolution, the Baptists were oppressed by the Congregationalists. In numerous instances, their goods were distrained for the support of the regular ministry; not only men, but women, were imprisoned and shamefully maltreated for the

non-payment of parish taxes; and after the law exempted regular members of their societies from parochial assessment, collectors, constables, magistrates, and even the higher courts, often suffered the most pitiful legal quibbles to cut them off from this immunity. It is a disgraceful portion of our history, and in the present equality of all sects in the eye of the law, and the honored position held by the Baptists, it is difficult for us to believe that such things have been so recently; but here is ample documentary evidence, and it deserves to be faithfully read and diligently pondered, that we may know how fast and how far our community has made progress in the recognition of those rights of conscience, no less fundamental and more sacred than the political freedom for which many of the foremost abettors of this religious persecution put property and life at hazard.

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27. — *Black's Atlas of North America. A Series of Twenty Maps, constructed and engraved by* JOHN BARTHOLOMEW. *With Introductory Letter-press, and a Complete Index.* Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black. 1856. 39 folio pages of Letter-press.

WE have, within the last three months, had occasion repeatedly to refer to this Atlas, and hesitate not to pronounce it, on every account, by far the best Atlas of North America extant. So far as we have tested it, it is accurate, minute, and thorough. Its execution is in the very best style. The outlines are strong, the maps well tinted and shaded, the type clear and always legible, the most crowded portions unblurred. It may seem humiliating to send to Edinburgh for maps of our own continent; but we are not so stubborn adherents to the "American system" as to prefer inferior home manufactures to the superior products of the other hemisphere. We are indebted for the copy before us to Messrs. Little, Brown, & Co., and we trust that they may find a prompt demand for a work of so essential service and use.

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28. — *From New York to Delhi, by Way of Rio de Janeiro, Australia, and China.* By ROBERT B. MINTURN, Jr. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1858. 12mo. pp. 488.

THIS volume consists principally of the narrative of very extensive inland tours in China and India. The author is a keen and careful observer, and a highly entertaining writer. He visited regions which few European or American travellers have described, and he is equally skilled